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CENTENARIANS OF EUROPE.

Statistics arranged in Germany show that Europe has at present more than 7,000 people who have passed the age of one hundred years, says an exchange. Bulgaria heads the list with 3,888 centenarians. Roumania and Servia follow with 1,704 and 573, respectively. Among the other nations comes Spain with 410. France, notwithstanding its larger population, has but 213 centenarians. In Italy there are only 197; in Austria-Hun-

FALL ADVERTISING.

The months of September and October are particularly favorable to enterprise in advertising.

The buying public is looking for new clothes and new house furnishings after the wear and tear of the summer. At other times of the year you have the dead weight of the buyer's indifference to work against. Now the buyers are coming your way, their attention and interest are excited, and the merchant merely has to persuade them that he has the goods and the values.

It is a time, too, when buyers do not expect quite the low prices that can be had at off seasons. Goods sold

A PATROL OF THE OCEAN.

An excellent suggestion is made by Fred Harsley, M.A., an Englishman, who is a lecturer at the university of Berlin. Mr. Harsley proposes that the nations of Europe and America join in a plan for patrolling the Atlantic steamship routes with international vessels specially designed and built for that service. The chief work of these patrol ships would be to send to all vessels within range wireless warnings of danger from icebergs, or other cause, and to destroy drotlets when that is practicable. They could also be employed for other useful purposes, such as giving to the rescue of ships in distress, taking meteorological observations, investigating the ocean currents, taking deep-sea soundings, etc.

A further advantage is pointed out by Mr. Harsley.

"These patrol boats might be regarded as the equivalent of an ocean police, established for the protection of all nations; their establishment would, in that case, be a further con-

cession, and this time a practical one, assuming concrete form, that the oceans belong to all, that they have, in fact, become fundamentally internationalized; in other words, they have become neutral territory, which again means that if two or more nations wish to use the sea for fighting they must act as they do on land, keep away from this neutral territory, the open sea, and fight within their own (or the enemy's) home or colonial waters. With the inauguration of international patrol boats the high seas would be, with common consent of the nations, but the international highway, and nothing more, which all nations might at any time use for their friendly or unfriendly visits to each other, but which would be forbidden for belligerent purposes, common, or highroad—are neutral and just as national public places—which a village green, city street, town common, or highroad—are neutral and forbidden by ordinary law for belligerent purposes to the private citizen."

The suggestions are worthy of the thoughtful consideration of the great powers. It would have good results.

THE ORIGIN OF LIFE.

In his recent presidential address Prof. Schaefer, of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, restates the old doctrine that living matter can be produced by chemical processes from matter which is non-living or dead; in other words, that protogenesis or spontaneous generation is possible. His thesis marshalled all the facts which can be considered as supporting his contention, remarks the scientific editor of the Rochester, N.Y., Post-Express, yet it cannot be truly claimed that all of them together prove his position or even render it probable.

He sees that crystals grow, and not perceive or admit that an invisible life is the pattern on which the molecules arrange themselves. He sees that when a living cell has been killed certain material constituents combined in a certain unknown way appear to have composed it, and on the strength of this he asserts "beyond doubt" that when chemistry succeeds in combining these ingredients properly the result will exhibit the phenomena of life; in other words he insists on the chemical basis of life.

ELECTION IN MIDLOTHIAN.

The London Chronicle deplores the defeat of Midlothian, so nobly associated with the historic memory of Scottish liberalism. But it takes comfort in the thought that the defeat is only momentary, that the unionists hold the seat by a very insecure tenure. This was due to a division in the progressive vote. The liberals and laborites split, and the unionist candidate crept through with a beggarly majority of thirty-two. Major Hope was elected by a minority vote. The progressive vote exceeded that of the tories by 2,881 and the Chronicle says these figures demonstrate that even at the present stage of the insurance act, Midlothian believes in that far-reaching measure. The electors also declared, by a large majority, for home rule for Ireland and for disestablishment in Wales, for on these questions the

labor candidate was as strong as the liberal. The paper regrets the antagonism which arose between liberalism and labor, and says:

"Without the help of liberalism the labor party, at this stage in its growth, at any rate, is politically powerless. We do not believe in compacta. Let the labor party jealously preserve its independence and fearlessly assert it, but let it not deliberately go out of its way to strengthen the privileged interests. That is what it has done in Midlothian."

Against the insurance act the tories were particularly vigorous. They attacked it on the ground of its compulsory character and general appeal to the resentment in the breasts of all English-speaking people against being forced to do anything. Lloyd George took a hand in the contest and issued a letter to the Hon. Alexander Shaw, the liberal candidate,

in which he suggested that the tories' candidate had to stand against the usual misrepresentations of the insurance act. The chancellor went on to say:

"Next year, when the benefits of the act will materialize, it will be too late to malign and distort its provisions; so the tories are making the most of the short time that is still left them within which mis-statements cannot be refuted by benefits received."

Where experience proves that the act needs amendment, either to meet special cases or otherwise, it will be amended. As it stands it is the first measure ever passed in which the resources of the kingdom have been drawn upon to assist a workman in the hour of sickness, and unemployment, to keep himself and his family from being driven to choose between pauperism and privation."

"As it was with old age pensions, so it is with insurance. Our opponents merely talked about it, and we have done it."

"We have now a still greater task in front of us, a task requiring all the united strength of the British democracy to accomplish. We have to see that an antiquated and absurd land system shall no longer prevent the land of this country from being put to the best use for the benefit of its people. The liberal party alone possess both the power and the will to cope adequately with this far-reaching problem."

The Chronicle, in pointing out the way in which a member can represent a minority, expresses the hope that Mr. Asquith will institute a clause in the new reform bill which—either by providing for the alternative vote or for the second ballot—will put a stop once and for all to this intolerable perversion of the first principles of democratic government."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Mr. Lloyd-George has founded an institution in a Welsh town with the sum of \$30,000, which he collected in the court from his various defamations. Thus does the chancellor turn evil into good, and illustrates his genius for extracting money from reluctant pockets.

A dominion housing convention is to be held in Toronto shortly, to consider the housing problem, the object being to devise means of making it easier for the average man to obtain a house of his own and also to raise the standard of housing to such an extent that slums will be no more.

Rev. A. E. Lavell, of Brantford, a former Kingstonian, just home from a European trip, says in the whole east the prestige of England is immense. In Syria all classes, foreigners, Mohammedans, and even the Druses openly hope that England will some day hold Syria. What she has done in Egypt, they hope she will do there.

Mr. Borden says he and his fellow-ministers inherited from the previous government a number of difficult and delicate questions. Of course they did, says the Toronto Globe, but Mr. Borden, by allying himself with Mr. Bourassa on the most difficult and most delicate of them all, did not make it easier to find for it the best possible solution.

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